Canadian Amateur + for Phil

THE Agents' Gazette,

AND BUDGET OF FUN.

Devoted to the Interests of Agents, Philatelists, and Amateurs.

VOL. 1. PORT HOPE, FEBRUARY, 1877. NO. 2

LITERATURE.

WRITTEN FOR THE GAZETTE.

STAMP COLLECTING.

BY "CASIUS."

This sort of curiosity collecting is a very expensive luxury, therefore the reason that so few invest in that sort of amusement in this country; but the ranks of the "few" spoken of are fast swelling, as it is alleged there is at present 100,000 collectors in the United States and Canada, among them being persons of note, such as Gen. Sherman, and others. What spoils a collection of these valuable curiosities is the counterfeit stamps of the rarer varieties, sold by unprincipled vendors. When a collector gets a rare stamp he is jubilant over a success, but when it turns out to be a worthless counterfeit then he is disgusted and is afraid to send to dealers, or gives up entirely. Bogus stamps seem becoming more numerous every day; as fast as any stamp begins to be rare so fast do the counterfeiters engrave plates of them. A good many collectors think because a stamp is post-marked or cancelled it must be genuine, but not so, for these sharpers take care to prevent the least suspicion.

Philatelists should take care of old specimens and keep them clean, for the better they look the more they are worth. The first postage stamp used, viz:—the Mulready envelope, issued by Great Britain, is now worth $5 each. The one shilling Canada stamp was withdrawn a few days after it was issued, and so became a rarity; it sells for $25. $150 will possibly buy the blue penny or red four-penny stamp of the Cape of Good Hope of 1860. There are many high-priced stamps for which there is not space to enumerate here. A stamp of the Sandwich Islands of 1852 is worth $200. There are large importing houses in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Paris, Brusse's, London, Liverpool and other places, with stock of the value of $50,000 and upwards. $10,000 or $15,000 seems a large price to pay for a collection of articles of no intrinsic worth, but the wonder ceases when they are sold at such prices as the above. There has been one expert counterfeiter in this kind of business arrested and sent to the Pennsylvania State Prison for a term of three years. His imitations of the rarer sets equalled the originals; and he had half-a-dozen offices to sell his abominable trash to collectors.

A good many persons ask "What is the sense or benefit to be derived in collecting postage stamps?" They are the signs of progress in the civilization of a country, and historic landmarks of the changes that occur, showing by alternation in their designs the succession of rulers and revolutions, etc. They are a study to geologists and other scholars, bringing to light many things of a historical nature, not found in any history or geography.

A Youthful Sharper.

Yesterday morning a woman living on Mill street was seen on the walk in front of the gate heaving the snow right and left, and she had only got fairly settled to work when a boy lounged up and remarked:

"I'll clear off the walk for ten cents."

"I guess I'm able to do it," she replied.

"But see how it looks," he continued. "Here you are a perfect lady in look and action, highly educated, and yet you grovel in dust, as it were, for the pitiful sum of ten cents."

"You grovel along and mind your own business," she curtly replied, still digging away.

"It's worth ten cents," he said as he leaned against the fence "but I'm a feller with some sentiment in my bosom. Now, we'll say five cents, or just enough to cover the wear and tear o' my bones. Give me the shovel and you go in, get on your sealskin sacque and best jewelry, and while I work you stand out here and boss around, and talk as if you owned the biggest part of North America, while I had nothing, and was in debt for that."

She looked at him sharply, saw that he was in earnest, and when she passed over the snow-shovel she put two nickles in his hand. He looked after her as she went in, and then sadly mused:

"O! Flattery, thy surest victim is a woman homely enough for a scare crow!"

A Legal Point.

"Well, you are a nice boy to send on a message," said a woman to a boy who had lost a bundle which she had entrusted to him. He struck the attitude of an orator, and replied: "Not being a common carrier, and not having entered into a contract with you to carry your parcel for and in consideration of any sum, I have incurred no liability, and am liable to no penalty. If I had undertaken to carry the parcel for my own particular profit my father even would not have been responsible for its loss (see Butler against Basing 2 C & P. 914), unless indeed he paid me smaller wages because of the opportunity thus afforded me to make small sums. On this point I will only quote Dwight against Brewster, 1 Pickering (Miss.) 59. But rising from law to the equity of the case, I have only to say"—But before he could say it his father had yanked him from the room.

—A Quaker chasing his broad-brim hat, which the wind had blown off, saw a boy laughing at his calamity. Exceeding wroth at his futile endeavor to recover the tile, he said:

"Art thou a profane lad?"

"Once in a while," replied the boy.

"Then," said he, handing him a quarter, "thee may damn that hat the money's worth!"

The Agents' Gazette

AND BUDGET OF FUN

Will be published on the 20th day of every month. It will be devoted to the interests of Agents and Amateurs, and will contain notices and advertisements of the very BEST and RESPONSIBLE dealers in the United States and Canada, the latest publications, also stamp collectors' and amateur news. Subscription, one year, post-paid, 25 cents; 6 months (on trial) for 15 cents Sample copies free to all.

ADVERTISING RATES.

	1 m'th.	3mt's.	6 m'ths.	1 year.
2 lines,	25	65	1 10	2 00
Half inch,	50	1.25	2 25	4.00
One "	1.00	2.50	4.50	8 00
Two "	1.75	4.25	7.75	14.00
Half column,	3 25	8 00	14.25	26.00

Advertisers will find the GAZETTE a splendid advertising medium through which to reach Agents and Amateurs.

John Hooper, Jas. H. Shannon } Editors and Proprietors.

PORT HOPE, ONTARIO, FEBRUARY 20TH, 1877.

IMPORTANT TO ADVERTISERS.

As we have decided to make the GAZETTE a durable, and a lasting paper, we will receive advertisements from the present date, payable on receipt of bill, and marked copy containing ad. If it is to be inserted for a longer period than three months, payments must be made quarterly. If they are not attended to within a reasonable time after we have mailed bill, the company or person will be published monthly in our Swindlers column as being unreliable, and untrustworthy.

WE have opened the amateur department solely for the good of the advertiser, for, as the GAZETTE will have a large circulation among amateurs, as well as agents, it will prove an excellent advertising medium. Remember, that it will not in any way, interfere with our regular duties, in publishing an agents' paper.

"LAZY" CANVASSERS.

THERE is a class of canvassers, who are always complaining of the dull times; in fact, they feel above their business, and give a person to understand that it is through mere necessity that they procure an agency. They never canvass when troubled with a slight head-ache, or in rainy weather. They are generally guilty of exaggerating their work; promising what they never intend to give, as an inducement for a person to subscribe. We would advise all such canvassers to leave the business, for, if the business does not suit them, they cannot suit the business, and give place to a better and a nobler class, who are proud of their occupation, and are not afraid of a little head-ache or of working over hours.

—THE addresses of agents, amateurs, etc., poured in so fast for sample copies, since the issue of our first number, that our stock of extra copies was exhausted in a few days. All who did not receive one will be attended to this month.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

—ADVERTISERS note our low advertising rates and forward copy at once.

—ALL books and magazines sent us will receive a fair, and impartial criticism.

—ALL desiring to receive the GAZETTE regular, should send 25 cents for year's subscription.

—EVERY person answering our "ads." will confer a favor on us, by stating that they saw them in the AGENTS' GAZETTE.

—IF an agent, or any person, sends us the address of five working agents, we will forward him the GAZETTE for one year—free.

—AGENTS and others having dealers cheat them, or acting anyway dishonest, will please communicate to us and have them published.

—WE beg to call the attention of agents and others to our advertisers. We are sure all persons dealing with them will be honorably treated.

—IN our next number we will commence to expose all dishonest dealers, swindlers, etc., and bring to light several "little schemes" that sharpers use to entrap the unwary.

—THANKS.—Our thanks are due to the two or three "frauds" who have sent us a large quantity of circulars. They are splendid—to write editorials on; but we would rather have them *all* printed on one side of the sheet only.

—AGENTS, now is the time, select your work for the Spring and Summer, for there is a splendid prospect of good times. Take hold of some useful publication, novelty or anything you may have a desire for. Strike out bravely with the rest, and by hard work, from morning till night, rainy or shine, you will positively succeed.

SHREWD advertisers have already learnt that it is not the oldest papers—whose readers are often too conservative to patronize *any* advertiser, especially at a distance--which pay the best; but the new, vigorous, growing papers, whose subscribers and readers partake of the spirit of enterprise to be found in the papers themselves, and who do not hesitate, through fear or dullness, to patronize distant places.—*Illustrated Weekly.*

AMATEUR NEWS.

THERE is talk of sending a delegation of amateurs to the Paris Exposition in 1878.

TORONTO can boast of having the most amateur papers of any city in the British Provinces. Four or five new ones were to have been issued this and last month.

— "The slumber of the pure is sweet.' That accounts for sleeping in church surrounded by the "pew-rest" influences.

—There was a little gathering the other evening and a lady, with a desire to chasten the conversation, asked a young man if he had never felt a deep and subtle thrill, a fullness of feeling, so to speak that remind d him of another life. He said he had once. It when he was in the country, and the doctor called it cholera morbus, and charged him four dollars a visit.

OUR EXCHANGES.

The *New Ipswich Times* has come to hand. It is sensibly edited, and of nice form.

The Hornellsville *Maple Leaf* has been received. There is good taste shown in its composition, and is well-edited.

The *Boston Rambler* is among the best of our exchanges, and reflects great credit on G. B. Ullman, its proprietor.

Among our February exchanges on hand is the St. Louis *Rambler*. It is edited and printed by a school-boy fifteen years old.

The *St. Louis Philatelist*, published by E. F. Gambs, is on our table. It is beautifully printed on tinted paper, and contains valuable information for stamp collectors.

Still they come. The first number of the *Boys Journal*, Toronto, has been received. It is published by Messrs. Taylor and Burgess, and no doubt will strike its mark in the amateur literary world.

Messrs. Leslie, Berryman & Grundy, of the *Canadian Enterprise*, have bought out the *Amateur Times*, formerly conducted by Mr. H. Williams. We wish them every success in their new undertaking.

The third No. of the *Amateur Punch* is out. It is well edited, and is printed on toned paper. Persons wishing to subscribe may send their address, accompanied with subscription price—25 cents, to this office.

Any person sending us two subscribers accompanied with the cash will receive a useful and beautiful present.

St. Valentine's Day.—This celebrated day, sighed for and longed for by love-lorn swains, has come and gone. The custom of sending Valentines has almost ceased, and it is high time it did, for it has now descended to be the channel of petty malice and cowardly spite. The saddest sight of the occasion, is for a young man who has sent a $3 Valentine to his Dulcinea, to have her tell him she cannot imagine who sent it. He deserves all the consolation this great country can afford him.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

HULLESS OATS. A sample package and circular for 10 cts. Circulars, 3c. Box 117, Newbury, Vt.

7 different amateur books—an amateur library complete, 25c. SUNNYSIDE PUB. CO, Akron, Ohio.

AGENTS and amateurs—send your address to J. H. SHANNON, 92 Walton St., Port Hope, Ont., dealer in all novelties; stamps, foreign and rare, etc. 2-

NOTICE!—The undersigned is prepared to fill balloons by a new process, very cheaply. Circular for stamp. C. F. WHITAKER, Terra Haute, Ind.

NOW OUT. "My Silver Wedding."—Price 10 cts. Cards printed at cheap rates—send for price-list. JOHN R. REED, Amateur Pub., Canton, Ohio.

85 names and addresses for 6 cts. Warranted genuine. C. E HELLINGS, Bristol, Bucks Co., Pa.

A SPLENDID PACKET OF STAMPS, containing over 15 varieties, all foreign, will be sent to any address for two 3 cent stamps. Address, I. S. CO., 1124 Locust street, St. Louis, Mo., U.S. 2-1

YOUR name neatly printed on 100 white or tinted Bristol visiting cards for 50 cts. Fancy French photos., 30 cts. Transparent playing cards, 75 cts. AGENTS WANTED. EXCELSIOR CARD Co, Pt. Hope, Ont.

LOOK HERE! Send 30 cts. for a pack of our fancy tinted latest style visiting cards. A prize worth from 25 cts. to $5 in every pack. 7 cts. for complete outfit. Agents wanted. Address, MAY-FLOWER PRINTING CO., Niles, Mich. 2-1

$10 TO $25 a day SURE made by Agents selling our Chromos, Crayons, and Reward Motto, Scripture Text, Transparent, Picture and Chromo Cards. 100 samples, worth $4, sent post-paid for 75 cts. Illustrated Catalogue FREE. J. H. BUFFORD'S SONS, BOSTON. [Estab'd 1830.

Read and Believe!!

PARTIES desirous of obtaining a fine collection of Foreign Postage Stamps can be supplied on reasonable terms by applying to the undersigned, who is ready at all times to fulfill orders entrusted to him and guarantee satisfaction. **R. T. H. DALE,** Port Hope, Ontario, Can. 2-1

POSITIVELY TRUE!

THE EVER BURNING LIGHT, which burns for six months at the rate of 5 hours per day. Uses no coal oil. Gives light equal to gas. Will be supplied to agents at the following rates:—Sample, by mail, 25 cts.; ½ dozen, by mail, 75 cts; 1 dozen, by mail, $1.25; ½ gross, by express, $5; 1 gross, by express, $9. Address, LIGHT MF'G CO., Pt. Hope, Ont. 2-

A NEW PRINCIPLE! A NEW WAY!!

STAMPS! Great reduction in prices. 1000 agents wanted. Satisfactory reference required; full particulars for 3 cent stamp—no post-cards need apply. Specimen copies of the "St. Louis Philatelist," an 8-p stamp paper, sent post-free for 3 ct. stamp—none free. Established five years. E. F. GAMBS, Foreign Stamp Importer, 413 South 4th St., St. Louis, Mo. 2-1

CHROMOS. Agents; best chance of the season; all the new and taking Chromos—Falls of the Rhine, On the Susquehanna, Off Boston Light, Old Oaken Bucket, White Mountains, Niagara Falls, Newport, Saratoga, Virgin Vesta, Beatrice, Snow Storm, American Fruit, Pier at Calais, Passau on the Danube; also, brilliant 9x11 Chromos, on black or white mounts, floral business cards, Sunday school cards, statuary, mottoes, black ground panels; also, frames and agents' supplies at very bottom prices. Particulars free. Illustrated Catalogue on receipt of stamp. Send for $3.00 outfit. J. LATHAM & CO., 419 Washington St., Boston, headquarters for Foreign and American Chromos.

Stamp Dealers and Collectors, Look Here!!

SELLING OFF, CHEAP, FOR CASH.

1090 finely mixed European stamps, only..... $ 50
500 " " " " 30
100 mixed stamps of Virgin Isles, Equador, Philippine Islands, Shanghai, Bremen, $1.—50 for 60
25 mixed rare stamps of Deccan, Cabul, and Corrientes, in good order, worth $2, only..... 75
30 rare South American varieties, splendid,..... 25

Any 3 of the following sets for 25 cts—7 for 50 cts:—Shanghai, 8;—Virgin Isles, 5;—Bremen, 7;—Bolivia, 4; Buenos Ayres, 9;—Paraguay, 5,—Japan, 10;—Sarawak, 5;—Hamburg, 30;—Deccan, 3;—Corrientes, 3.

As we intend clearing out our stock for fresh arrivals from Paris, dealers and collectors will see the advantage of getting their stamps from us. All are warranted genuine, in good condition, and sent post-free on receipt of cash. Illustrated descriptive and priced catalogue, 10 cts. STAR STAMP AGENCY,
Agts. for Devenz Cie., Paris. Port Hope, Ont.